

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) An assembly for protection against an explosion, said assembly including a substantially plate-shaped multi-ply element formed by two outer walls (1, 2) and at least one intermediate layer (3) of a particle-shaped material, **characterised in** that at least one layer of a particle-shaped material is a ceramic material comprising individual ceramic particles, the ceramic material presenting a density in the range of approximately 0.3 to 1.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, ~~each of the particles having~~ a pore diameter in the range of approximately 20 to 120 µ and a physical size in the range of approximately 0.5 to 10 mm.

2. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, **characterised in** that the ceramic material presents a crystal size in the range of approximately 1 to 20 µ.

3. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 1, **characterised in** that the ceramic material presents a density in the range of approximately 0.5 to 0.95 g/cm<sup>3</sup> ~~and preferably in the range of approximately 0.6 to 0.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.~~

4. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to claim 1, **characterised in** that ~~the particles of the ceramic material presents~~ a pore diameter in the range of approximately 30 to 80 µ and ~~preferably in the range of approximately 45 to 65 µ.~~

5. (Currently amended) An assembly according to claim 1, **characterised in** that the particles of the ceramic material presents a physical size in the range of approximately 1 to 7 mm ~~and~~

~~preferably in the range of approximately 2 to 5 mm.~~

6. (Previously presented) An assembly according to claim 1, **characterised in** that the outer walls (1, 2) are made of a metal material.

7. (Previously presented) An assembly according to claim 1, **characterised in** that the outer walls (1, 2) are made of a fibre-reinforced rubber material.

8. (New) An assembly according to claim 1, **characterized in** that the ceramic material presents a density in the range of approximately 0.6 to 0.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

9. (New) An assembly according to claim 1, **characterised in** that the ~~particles of the~~ ceramic material presents a pore diameter in the range of approximately 45 to 65  $\mu$ .

10. (New) An assembly according to claim 1, **characterised in** that the particles of the ceramic material presents a physical size in the range of approximately 2 to 5 mm.